

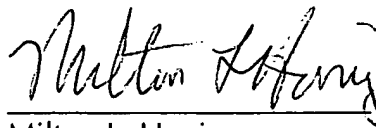
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance the case to issue without delay.

The Examiner considered most of the claims anticipated or at least obvious over WO 97/38074. Applicants have argued that this reference requires aldehydes as an essential element in the bleaching process. These aldehydes are used and consumed by atmospheric oxygen in delivering the bleaching effect. It was the Examiner's opinion that the instant claims "do not exclude the use of aldehydes but only state that the complex catalyzes the bleaching or substrate by atmospheric oxygen without the use or consumption of aldehydes".

Applicants have amended claim 1 which specifies that compositions besides being substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system are also substantially devoid of aldehydes. Applicants look forward to the next substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,



Milton L. Honig  
Registration No. 28,617  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MLH/sm  
(201) 840-2403